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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/810,217	03/19/2001	Susumu Saito	Q63511	6911

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EXAMINER	
PHAM, HAI CHI	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 07/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/810,217

Applicant(s)

SAITO ET AL.

Examiner

Hai C Pham

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the c rrespondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

2. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1:

- Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The orderly list of the different claimed elements does not convey how the elements are connected together, e.g., the "beam converging unit" should be disposed between the laser light sources and the beam scanner to converge the light beams onto the surface of the beam scanner.

Claim 3:

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- Similarly, claim 3 fails to provide the structural cooperative relationships of the different claimed elements.

Claim 4:

- Again, claim 4 also fails to provide the structural cooperative relationships of the different claimed elements;
- The following limitations “a scanning direction” (line 10) and “a beam scanning direction” (line 13) appear to be ambiguous in that it is unclear whether it represents the same scanning direction. However, “a beam scanning direction” should read *—the beam scanning direction—* since it is believed that both limitations are referred to the main scanning direction of the laser light beams.

Claim 2 is dependent from claim 1 above, and is therefore indefinite.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

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6. Claims 1, 3, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. 5,999,345).

Nakajima et al. discloses a multi-beam optical scanning apparatus comprising two semiconductor laser light sources (LD1, LD2, Fig. 6) each including a plurality of light emitting devices arranged in a line at equal intervals, a beam scanner (rotating polygon mirror 403), a beam converging unit (cylinder lens 402), and a controller for always controlling an inclination angle (θ_1 , θ_2) of said plurality of light emitting devices (LD1-R, LD1-L, LD2-R, LD2-L) with respect to a beam scanning direction of each of said semiconductor laser light sources (Fig. 7).

With regard to claims 3 and 4, Nakajima et al. further teaches the controller for always detecting a position of the output beams in a direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction (via linear sensor 411), for controlling a predetermined pitch interval (P) of scanning lines owing to variation in relative position of each of said light sources (via pitch calculation section 412), and for controlling an inclination angle (θ_1 , θ_2) of arrangement of said plurality of light emitting devices with respect to the beam scanning direction (main scanning direction) of each of said semiconductor laser light sources., respectively.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 2, 5, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al. in view of Motoi (U.S. 5,539,719).

Nakajima et al. discloses all the basic limitations of the claimed invention except for the detector detecting a shift in time interval between moments at which the laser light beams pass over the detector.

Nevertheless, Motoi discloses an image forming apparatus including a light beam deviation detecting device (sensors B, C, Fig. 18) between the two laser light beams in the sub-scanning direction by detecting the time interval difference (T3) between the respective detecting time of arrivals (T1 and T2) of the two laser light beams.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Nakajima et al. with the aforementioned teaching of Motoi for the purpose of calculating and subsequently correcting the pitch interval of the scanning lines.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai C Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-1281. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E. Barlow can be reached on (703) 308-3126. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-

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7722, (703) 308-7724, (703) 308-7382, (703) 305-3431, (703) 305-3432 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 27, 2002